

Score	Arthritis Society Scientific Merit Rating Scale	Priority for funding
4.8 – 5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exceptional research with extremely significant and novel aims ▪ Leading edge nationally and internationally ▪ Addresses extremely important questions, challenges existing paradigms and will substantially improve our understanding of arthritis ▪ Extremely likely that all objectives will be met ▪ No identified weaknesses 	Highest
4.5 – 4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outstanding research with very significant and novel aims ▪ Nationally and internationally competitive ▪ Addresses essential questions and will have a major impact on our understanding of arthritis ▪ Very likely that all objectives will be met ▪ Virtually no weaknesses 	Very High
4.2 – 4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent research with significant and novel aims ▪ Nationally competitive and potentially internationally relevant ▪ Will have a significant impact on our current knowledge of arthritis ▪ Likely that all objectives will be met ▪ At least one minor weakness 	High
3.9 – 4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very good research with important and novel aims ▪ Potentially nationally competitive ▪ Potential to contribute considerably to our knowledge of arthritis ▪ Very good likelihood that most objectives will be met ▪ Some minor weaknesses that can be addressed during the term of the grant 	Medium-High
3.6 – 3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good research with important aims ▪ Potentially nationally relevant ▪ Potential to improve our knowledge of arthritis ▪ Good likelihood that most objectives will be met ▪ At least one moderate weakness 	Medium-Low
3.3 – 3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research with low potential to yield important results ▪ Numerous moderate weaknesses 	Low
3.0 – 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research with very low potential to yield important results ▪ At least one major weakness 	Lowest
Below 3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research in need of further development before being competitive ▪ Numerous major weaknesses 	None
Unscored (mark as 0.01)	The application was triaged by the panel and not discussed. The weaknesses of the proposed research far outweigh the strengths and therefore there is a low expectation of success.	None